(c) the steps Government propose to take to implement the same;

(d) by when Government propose to bring forward an amending Bill on the Representation of the people's Act to give effect to the decisions if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether Government propose to provide financial assistance to the State to implement the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Yes, sir.

(b) The consensus at the meeting of the Chief Ministers was that the Government should persuade the Election Commission to try the scheme of issue of photo identity caros on experimental basis in selected areas and, if found, successful extend it to other parts of the country in a phased manner.

(c) The matter is under the active consideration of Government.

(d) The consensus decision at the Chief Ministers Conference does not call for an amendment to the Representation of the people Act.

(e) The matter is under consideration of the Government.

Provision of photo identity cards to voters

570. SHRI G.G. SWELL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Election Commission had given a mandate that all voters in the country be provided with photo identity cards by 31st December, 1994 failing which no elections in the country will be held from January, 1995 onwards;

(b) whether cost factor has been advanced as the main hurdle;

(c) whether an agency in Madras has offered to supply digital identity cards containing the image of the voter with necessary entries at a fraction of the estimated cost through the process of videographing; and

(d) whether the argument of cost loses the legs it stands on?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Cost factor is no doubt a big constraint.

(c) and (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Implementation of recommendations by Committee on electoral reforms

571. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the recommendations of the Jagannathrao Committee of 1972 and the Dinesh Goswami Committee on Electoral Reforms which have been accepted or rejected; and

(b) what steps have so far been taken for the implementation thereof and what further steps towards electoral reforms are contemplated to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) The main recommendations of the Jagannathrao Committee of 1972 related to making Election Commission a multi-member body, reduction in voting age from 21 years to 18 years, and providing broadcasting facilities for contesting candidates.

The Dinesh Goswami Committee had gone into the entire gamut of Electoral Reforms a fresh in 1990 and made certain recommendations. Of these, the main recommendations which have since been accepted relate to making Election Commission a three-member body; fresh delimitation of constituencies on the basis of 1991 census; and use of existing electronic voting machines in elections. The other recommendations of the Goswami Committee alongwith certain other proposals on Electoral Reforms are under consideration of the Government and a comprehensive package on Electoral Reforms is proposed to be brought after consultation with political parties.